

SOME AFRICAN ANTHRIBIDAE.

BY DR. KARL JORDAN.

1. *Mecocerus albiceps* spec. nov.

♀. *M. fasciculato* Kolbe (1895) subsimilis, rostro cum capite vitta alba signato, elytris area albo tessellata dorsali communi magna in medio valde constricta. Rostrum latum deplanatum, dorso bicarinatum, basi sulco brevi mediano instructum. Pronotum sparsim granulatum; carina dorsali recta in medio levissime interrupta, versus latera angulata, carina laterali alta. Elytra pone basin gibbosa, seriatim punctata, striis 1^a et 2^a parum impressis.

Long. 12 mm.; lat. 5.5 mm.

Hab. Nguelo, Usambara; 1 ♀.

In the style of colouring the species agrees with *Physopterus melanoleucus* Jord. (1913). The rostrum is broad, and bears dorsally on each side of the flattened median area a rather broad carina which is slightly bent outward in the middle and is distant from eye. At the base there is a short median groove, and another shorter and more rounded groove is situated beyond the centre, where the carinae widen and disappear; between the second groove and the apical margin a slight median carina; between the dorsal carina and the raised edge of the antennal groove the rostrum is impressed, but there is no sulcus along the carina. Frons broad, being anteriorly at its narrowest point half as broad as the rostrum is long, measured in the middle. The occiput brown, the white stripe tripartite. Antenna pubescent white, club with the exception of the base of segment 9 rufous brown; segment II much shorter than III (measurements 7 and 10), IX in length like III, VIII and X like II, and XI a little longer than X.

Pronotum much rubbed, with indications of an ochraceous median vitta; at the sides a large basal ochraceous spot; laterally and along the carina dispersed granules, on the disc a shallow depression; carina with a small forward angle nearer the sides than middle; lateral carina very prominent in dorsal aspect.

Elytra with the base very distinctly marginate; a large patch of white spots extends from the subbasal humps to the beginning of the apical declivity, in middle confined to the sutural interspace, anteriorly reaching to the third row and posteriorly to the fifth; a white spot above shoulder and a few dots here and there; the rows of punctures not impressed, with the exception of the first and second; base and sides spotted with ochraceous.

Pubescence of underside greyish white, side of metasternite ochraceous, tip of metepimerum white; mesosternal process broader than long. Tibiae rufous brown, grey near base and beyond middle; first and last tarsal segments grey with rufous-brown tips, second segment with few grey hair-scales; first foretarsal segment longer than fourth.

2. *Mecocerus balteatus* spec. nov.

♀. Niger, subtiliter brunneo pubescens; elytris, metasterno abdomineque pube cinerea densissime tectis, balteo lato nigro cinctis.

Hab. Benito, Spanish Guinea; 1 ♀.

Near *M. oculus* Jord. (1895).

Head, rostrum, upper- and underside of prothorax, the extreme base of the elytra, mesosternum, apex of metasternum, and base of first abdominal sternite black clothed with a mummy-brown pubescence which does not conceal the dark colour of the derm; rest of body covered with a dense ashy-grey pubescence which has a faint luteous tint; on the elytra a transverse black band, 3.5 mm. wide near suture, narrowing at the sides, continuous with the transverse band of the underside, slightly brownish in sutural half; the narrow basal band widened at the shoulders. Legs black, with thin grey pubescence, which is denser on the tarsi.

3. *Mecocerus demissus* spec. nov.

♀. Niger, omnino schistaceo-griseo pubescens, elytris fascia transversa nigra notatis.

Hab. Gaboon (A. Mocquerys), 1 ♀, type; Benito, Spanish Guinea, 1 ♀. Likewise a near ally of *M. oculus*.

Uniformly slate-grey, with the exception of the brown club of the antenna and a black median band on the elytra. This band is a little more than 1 mm. wide at the side; it narrows slightly above and does not quite reach the suture.

In the second specimen the band is broader and extends across the suture, but is much shaded with slate-grey and only its anterior boundary is well defined, while posteriorly the band fades away.

Possibly both this form and the preceding one may ultimately prove to be colour varieties of *M. oculus*. Several of the African *Mecoceri* closely resemble certain Longicorns (e.g. *Aemocera*), and among mimetic species one must always expect to meet with polymorphism.

4. *Mecocerus modestus* spec. nov.

♂♀. Signatura elytrorum *M. annulipedi* Karsch (1882) simillimus, sed constructione *M. clathrati* Jord. (1903).

Long. (cap. excl.) 8-10 mm.

Hab. Johann-Albrechtshöhe, Cameroons (L. Conradt), 1 pair, type ♂; Cameroons, 1 ♂ and 3 ♀♀; Old Calabar, 1 ♂.

Perhaps a colour-variety of *M. clathratus*, but agreeing on the upper surface much better with *M. annulipes* and even *M. barombinus* Kolbe (1895). The head and rostrum bear the same deep and wide median groove as in *M. clathratus*, the rostrum has the same length, being shorter than in *M. annulipes*, and the velvety spot on the metasternum of the ♂ is as large as in *M. clathratus*. The second tarsal segment and the apex of the first are black, not white as in *M. annulipes*.

The upperside is dull greyish drab with small greyish white spots: on the pronotum a dot on the disc on each side of the middle and about three indistinct ones on the sides, the grey pubescence being also slightly condensed in front of the scutellum and at the lateral angles; on the elytrum a spot behind scutellum, another in first interstice further back, one in front of and three behind basal callosity of which two in third interstice, one behind shoulder-angle, a slightly transverse spot before middle at side-margin, three before apical declivity con-

fluent, forming a short transverse bar across interstices 3, 4, and 5, about six small spots on apical declivity, a few minute dots or traces of them here and there in basal three-fourths.

Underside rather more grey than upper, sterna with ill-defined lateral whitish spots, and the upper posterior angles of the abdominal segments likewise whitish.

5. *Physopterus cortex* spec. nov.

♀. Color *Ph. melanoleuci* Jord. (1913); magis robustus, capite cum rostro latiore, antennarum scrobi multo majore, margine superiore ejus fere ad oculum continuato; capite inter oculos carina mediana instructo; antennis prothoracis basin fere attingentibus, articulis 1°-4° longitudine aequalibus, 9° latitudine duplo longiore, duobus sequentibus simul sumptis longitudine aequali, 10° multo latiore quam longiore; pronoto tuberculato, carina in medio interrupta atque antrorsum flexa; elytris leviter fasciculatis pone basin gibbosis; prosterno laevi.

Long. 12 mm.; lat. 5.5 mm.

Hab. Usambara; 1 ♀.

A broad stripe, clay colour variegated with grey, extends from the apex of the proboscis to the base of the pronotum; apical area of elytra similarly coloured; scutellum and sutural area from base to the beginning of the apical declivity greyish white, this area narrow at base, reaching sixth interspace behind subbasal hump, narrowing abruptly before middle of elytra, and posteriorly reaching into third interspace, the area appearing sinuate or constricted; sides of occiput, pronotum and elytra brown; colour much less contrasting than in *Ph. melanoleucus*. Underside grey, with inconspicuous brown lateral spots on abdomen. Femora grey, brown at apex, tibiae grey and brown with three indistinct brown spots, tarsi greyish brown. Head and rostrum much broader than in *Ph. melanoleucus*; a distinct median carina between the eyes. Rostrum appearing less strongly widened at apex on account of the great width of the basal three-fifths; median channel deep and narrow at base; dorso-lateral carina very prominent, being a direct continuation of the rim of the eye, curved, the two carinae not parallel, but first convergent and then slightly divergent; upper margin of antennal groove curved and nearly extending to the eye.

Pronotum granulate, impressed before the scutellum and on the disc, with a transverse row of four humps, of which the lateral ones are the most conspicuous, being slightly penicillate; depression in front of these humps without a raised median line; carina as in *Ph. melanoleucus*, curved forward in middle and interrupted.

Prosternum with some granules anteriorly on the sides, otherwise smooth, intercoxal process broad, also in mesosternum, where it is half as broad again as long. First foretarsal segment as long as fourth.

The club of the antenna is slenderer than in the allied species, segment IX being as long as X and XI together; X is half as broad again as long.

6. *Physopterus emmides* spec. nov.

♀. Niger, supra albo-griseo et russo variegatus, capite inter oculos griseo, elytris ante et post medium densius grisescentibus, his arcis ad suturam coniunc-

tis, antice ad scutellum continuatis; subtus cum pedibus griseis, tibiaram dimidio basali supra plus minusve rufo-brunneo.

Rostrum supra planatum, bicarinatum, sulco profundo mediano instructum, lateribus impressum atque praeter carinam profunde sulcatum, sulco sub-oculari etiam profundo. Antenna prothoracis basin paulo superans, articulo 3^{io} secundo longiore, clava tenui, 10° latitudine fere dimidio longiore. Pronotum convexum, leviter quadri-impressum, carina dorsali fere recta medio levissime interrupta, versus latera paulum convexa. Elytra basi marginata, ad suturam parum deplanata, gibbositate postbasali distincta non-penicillata, interspatio 3^{io} pone medium caeteris magis convexo, dilatato.

Long. 12 mm.; lat. 5.5 mm.

Hab. Mundane, Cameroons (R. Rohde); 1 ♀.

The grey pubescence of the upperside is densest on the frons, in the middle of the pronotum, and, on the elytra, in between and behind the subbasal humps and behind the middle, but is nowhere so conspicuous as in *Ph. melanoleucus*, and numerous small grey speckles are present on the russet portions of the upperside.

The rostrum very strongly dilated at the apex; the median sulcus deep, continued on to the frons, but here shallow, not extending to the middle of the rostrum, a narrower, more shallow and shorter sulcus beyond middle replaced on widened apex by a raised line. The carinae broad, not sharp, particularly broad at the eye, accompanied laterally for some distance by a deep groove which is placed almost underneath the carina; sides of rostrum concave; cariniform margin of antennal groove curved, directed towards the underside of the head, joining the anterior margin of the deep, curved, genal groove. Frons at its narrowest point only as wide as the second antennal segment is long; occiput russet, centrally variegated with grey. Lengths of antennal segments II and III and VIII to XI are respectively 7, 10, 8, 10, 7, 9. Pronotum without conspicuous granules and without humps; on the disc four shallow impressions, of which the two anterior ones are the deepest. Elytra without tufts; the rows of punctures impressed, the dorsal interspaces slightly convex, the third, which is broad, more distinctly raised, especially behind the middle. Mesosternal process broad, apically dilated. First foretarsal segment one-fourth longer than last (exclusive of claws).

7. *Xylinades fustis* spec. nov.

♀. *X. lanugicorni* colore et statura similis; antennis decem-articulatis, articulis 10° et 11° in unum confusis.

Hab. Benito, Spanish Guinea; 1 ♀.

The black median patch of the elytrum is larger than in *X. lanugicornis* Dalm. (1833), joining the two limbal spots. The tomentum at the apical sutural angle is rather long, forming a small tuft. The outer and under sides of the mid- and hindtibiae bear the same minute grey pubescence which is found on the upperside of the femora and tarsi. The anal sternite is shorter than in the ♀ of *X. lanugicornis* and has more numerous large punctures. The pronotum is not so distinctly depressed before and behind the centre. The chief distinction is found in the antenna, of which the club is shorter and consists of two segments only, segment X being so completely united with XI that no suture is visible.

8. *Cylindroides ventralis* spec. nov.

♂♀. Niger, albo pubescens, lateribus pronoti late ochraceo-fulvis, elytris macula diffusa basali communi ac fascia communi ante apicem declivem sita brunneo-ochraceis, hac fascia antice diffusa lateribus antrorsum continuata postice linea nigrescente in utroque elytro convexa terminata. Pronotum postice in medio depressum. Pygidium leviter convexum, sulco mediano instructum. Abdomen ♂ longitudinaliter depressum, parte depressa brunneo hirsuta, metasterno macula mediana hirsuta eodem colore.

Hab. Warri, Niger, ii. 1896, iv. 1897 (Dr. F. Roth), 2 ♂♂, type; Benito, Spanish Guinea, 1 ♀; Gaboon, 1 ♂ (A. Mocquerys).

The brown colouring on the upper surface is variable in extent. The pronotum may be described as being clay-brown with a white median stripe which widens strongly in front. The transverse band placed before the apical declivity of the elytra is more or less sharply defined posteriorly, but quite diffuse anteriorly, being limbally either separated from or connected with the clayish limbal area which extends from the shoulder backwards. The tibiae bear two brown spots, one at the base, the other in the middle; the foretarsus is brown.

The pronotum is much less depressed centrally than in the other known species, and the middle line not at all raised in the depression. The underside of the ♂ is characteristic, the longitudinal central depression of the abdomen as well as a rounded central space on the metasternum being clothed with stiff dark brown hair; the margin of the penultimate abdominal segment is not elevate in the depression. The first tarsal segment is shorter than in *C. albo-plagiatus* Fairm. (1885).
